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FAMOUS WOMEN OF THE CIVIL WAR

Peter F. Copeland



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DEDICATION
For Riley Thomas

INTRODUCTION

There was scarcely a woman—North or South—who did not contribute time, labor or money to the cause in which she believed. Simple praise would be inadequate to do justice to these selfless women whose generosity in body and soul was given freely to the war effort both on the home front, as well as in hospitals and camps where they dressed, cleaned, fed, supplied, nursed and nurtured the soldiers without complaint, and sometimes fought side by side in the ranks with them. In fact, it is widely believed today that the number of those women who attended the troops in the field as nurses, vivandières, daughters of the regiment, and at times

engaged as soldiers, scouts and spies, is greater than had been originally supposed.

For those women who toiled as nurses and as hospital aides, the gratitude they witnessed in the faces of the soldiers they cared for was about the only thanks they received, and so was a key element in their sense of satisfaction and fulfillment. As one nurse put it, "It was pleasant to know that your efforts, however humble, were gratefully appreciated—a hundredfold." Another wrote, "I could not remain at home inactive when there was so much need for service."

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HARRIET BEECHER STOWE, Author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*

Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811–96) was a philanthropist and woman of letters, born into a distinguished New England family. She was also an ardent abolitionist, the daughter and wife of ministers who believed that the institution of slavery jeopardized the soul of America. The enormous success of her novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1851), roused millions in the North to oppose slavery, and

infuriated many in the slave-holding South. The book's impact upon public opinion was so powerful that President Lincoln is reported to have said to Mrs. Stowe, "So you are the little lady who wrote the book that started this great war!"

Above is a scene from *Uncle Tom's Cabin* that depicts Eliza and her child escaping from the slaveholders across a wintry river choked with ice floes.





HETTIE K. PAINTER, Volunteer Nurse

Hettie Painter (1822–89) was a fully qualified physician in her own right, but volunteered as a nurse for the Union cause. She served throughout the four long years of the war in Virginia and Maryland, behind the lines of the army of the Potomac. She is seen here, second from the left, with nursing aides and an army doctor in this drawing done from a photograph taken in a hospital tent

at City Point, Virginia. She was typical of the tireless women who served as “angels of the battlefield,” as she fought to keep the losses from disease from reaching the devastating levels of earlier wars, and the effects of negligence and unsanitary hospital conditions from taking more lives than were lost in combat.



“FRENCH MARY” TEPE, Vivandière

A vivandière was a female uniformed companion and caregiver who also supplied refreshments to the regiment. The role originated with the French army of Napoleon III which had such an aid attached to each battalion. French-born Marie Tepe was vivandière to the “Collis Zouaves”—the 114th Pennsylvania infantry regiment. She was also the wife of Private Bernard Tepe of the same regiment.

In 1862, at the battle of Fredericksburg, she was wounded by a bullet to her left ankle while caring for her soldier comrades. At Chancellorsville in 1863, she braved heavy enemy fire while circulating

among the thirsty troops with her water canteen. She was later awarded the Kearny Cross for bravery, and received from the Lieutenant Colonel of the regiment a silver cup inscribed, “To Marie, for Noble Conduct on the Field of Battle.” She buried her husband, who died in her arms on the Gettysburg battlefield, and later married the commanding officer’s orderly.

Here we see French Mary as she probably looked on the battlefield—wearing the picturesque uniform of a vivandière—with members of a veteran company infantry from the army of the Potomac.



DR. MARY EDWARDS WALKER, Surgeon and Spy

When Mary Walker (1832–1919) graduated as a physician from Syracuse Medical College—the first medical school in America, and also ahead of its time in admitting students of both sexes—she found little acceptance as a female doctor in nineteenth-century America. At the outset of the Civil War, however, the Union army was desperate for skilled medical personnel, so Mary was first enlisted as a volunteer nurse, and later as an assistant sur-

geon. In fact, she is thought to be the only woman who held that position during the Civil War.

Mary became active as a Union spy due to her ability to slip through the battle lines of the contending armies while caring for the wounded. In 1865, she was taken prisoner by the Confederacy and served four months in a southern jail. For her Civil War service, she was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.



HARRIET TUBMAN, Runaway Slave and Abolitionist

Harriet Tubman (1820?–1913) was born a slave. In 1849, upon hearing rumors she was about to be sold, she escaped from her master and fled to Philadelphia, guided only by the north star. Over the next decade, she led more than 300 fugitive slaves to freedom via the “Underground Railroad,” a network of secret safe-houses.

During the Civil War, she worked for the Union

cause as a cook, laundress, and nurse, as well as a scout and spy. After the war, she was involved in the effort to establish schools for freedmen in North Carolina, and she established a home for indigent aged African-Americans with proceeds from the sales of her biography, *Harriet, the Moses of her People* (1886), by S. H. Bradford.



SALLY TOMPKINS, Confederate Captain

Born into a Virginia plantation family of wealth and privilege, Sally Tompkins (1833–1916) was twenty-eight years old and unmarried when war broke out. She persuaded her wealthy neighbor Judge John Robertson to donate his Richmond home to be used as a hospital for the care of the Confederate wounded, where she labored tirelessly on their behalf.

In 1861, President Jefferson Davis signed an executive order placing all hospitals under government control. Rather than lose the valuable services of Sally Tompkins as chief of the hospital that had

the best survival rate, he granted her a commission as captain in the Confederate service, making her the first and only woman to receive an officer's commission in that army. She refused the salary that went with it, but accepted the rank because it would make it easier for her to obtain hospital supplies. She soon became known as "Captain Sally." Of the 1,333 admissions to Robertson Hospital between August 1, 1861 and April 2, 1865, there were only seventy-three deaths. At her death in 1916, she was buried with full military honors.



LUCY WARE WEBB HAYES, Soldier's Wife

Lucy Webb Hayes (1831–89), wife of Colonel Rutherford B. Hayes, often visited her soldier husband in camp during the war years, where she also tended to the wounded, providing aid and solace to make their suffering bearable. She later accompanied her husband on his trip home to convalesce when he was wounded in 1862. After her hus-

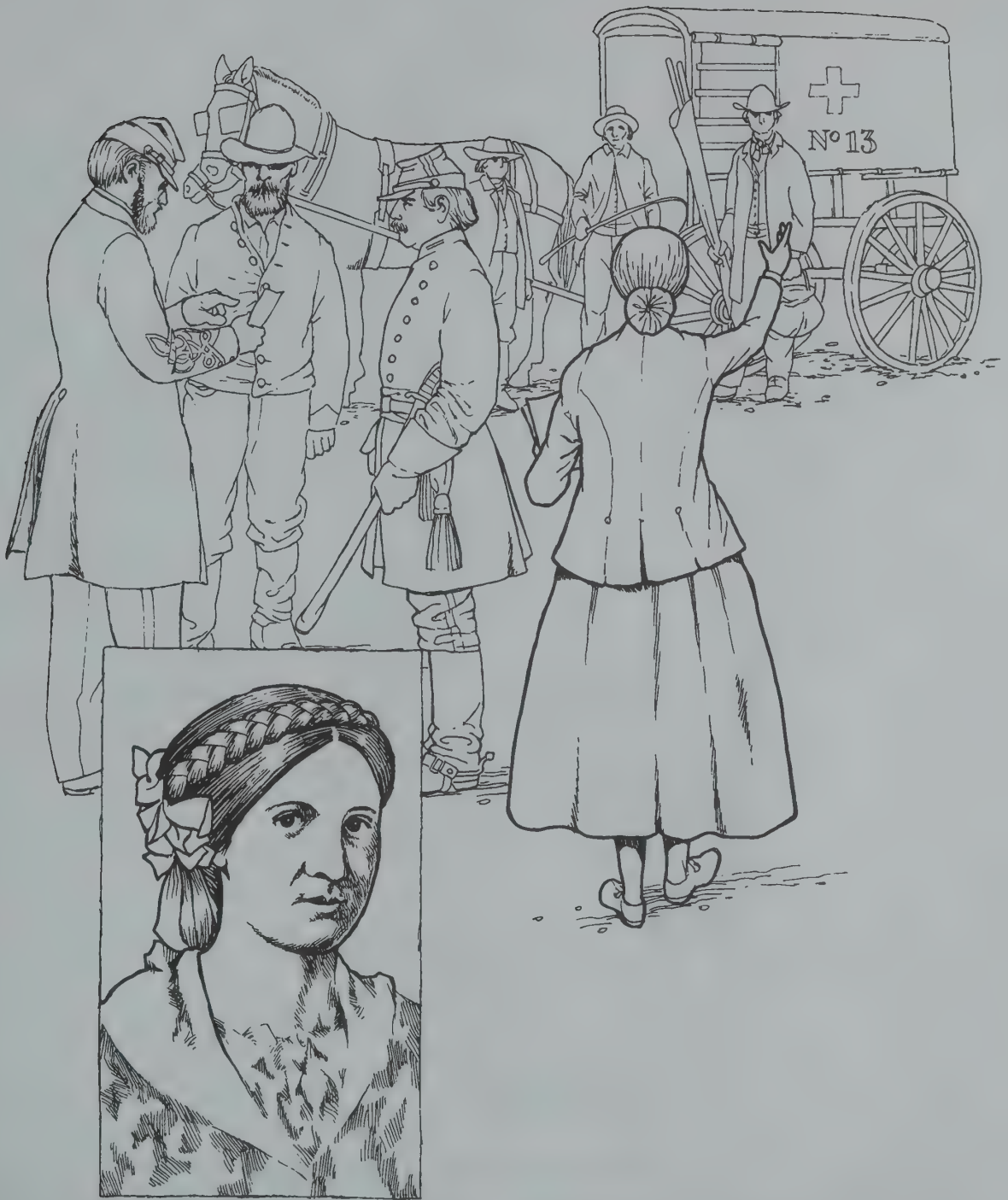
band's election to the presidency in 1877, the members of his old regiment presented her with a gift to commemorate her wartime kindnesses to them. Above we see Lucy Hayes comforting a wounded soldier in an emergency aid station set up in a barn behind the combat lines.



KATE CUMMING, Confederate Nurse

Inspired by the example of Florence Nightingale's service during the Crimean War and ignoring her family's opposition ("a lady's respectability must be at a low ebb when it can be endangered by going into a hospital," she countered), Kate Cumming (1834?-1909) was twenty-seven years old in 1861 when she volunteered to serve as a nurse for the Confederate army, at the battle of Shiloh in Tennessee. She endured all the hardships of army life, and travelled with the wounded through Tennessee, Mississippi, and Georgia. She described

one typical hospital she encountered in April, 1862: "the men were lying all over the house on their blankets, just as they were brought in from the battlefield, they are in the hall, on the gallery and crowded into the very small rooms. The foul smelling air from this mass of human misery at first made me giddy and sick, but I soon got over it . . . We have to walk and kneel in blood and water." She later published a detailed journal of her experiences of hospital life during the war, considered a valuable resource by scholars.



PHOEBE YATES LEVY PEMBER, Hospital Administrator

Phoebe Yates Pember (1823–1913) was a young Jewish widow who belonged to one of Savannah's most distinguished families. From 1862 to 1865, she served her country as chief matron of "Hospital #2," one of the divisions of the huge Chimborazo Hospital in Richmond, Virginia. She ministered to ill, wounded, and homesick soldiers, and still managed to maintain order with tact and steadfastness

amidst the chaos created by the malingerers and malcontents among the hospital staff. By the end of the war, this military institution would become the largest of its kind in the world, with approximately 15,200 patients passing through her care during the Civil War. Her book, *A Southern Woman's Story*, is the best single account of the Confederate hospital service.



CLARA BARTON, "Angel of the Battlefields"

In 1861, Clara Barton (1821–1912)—an enterprising forty-year-old schoolteacher from Massachusetts—first became involved in the war effort by retrieving the lost baggage of the 6th Massachusetts Regiment as it fought its way through Baltimore. When, after the first battle of Bull Run, she heard reports of the suffering of Union soldiers due to a lack of supplies, she took it upon herself to organize the effort to secure provisions for the wounded. Perceiving that care and comfort were most severely needed during action, Clara obtained

permission to cross battle lines to distribute blankets and medicine, and to personally minister to the wounded. She also provided hot meals for the combat-weary soldiers after major engagements. Her devotion to her soldier wards was such that she became known as "the angel of the battlefield."

In 1865, President Lincoln appointed her to administer the search for missing soldiers. In later life, Clara Barton was instrumental in the organization of the first American chapter of the International Red Cross.

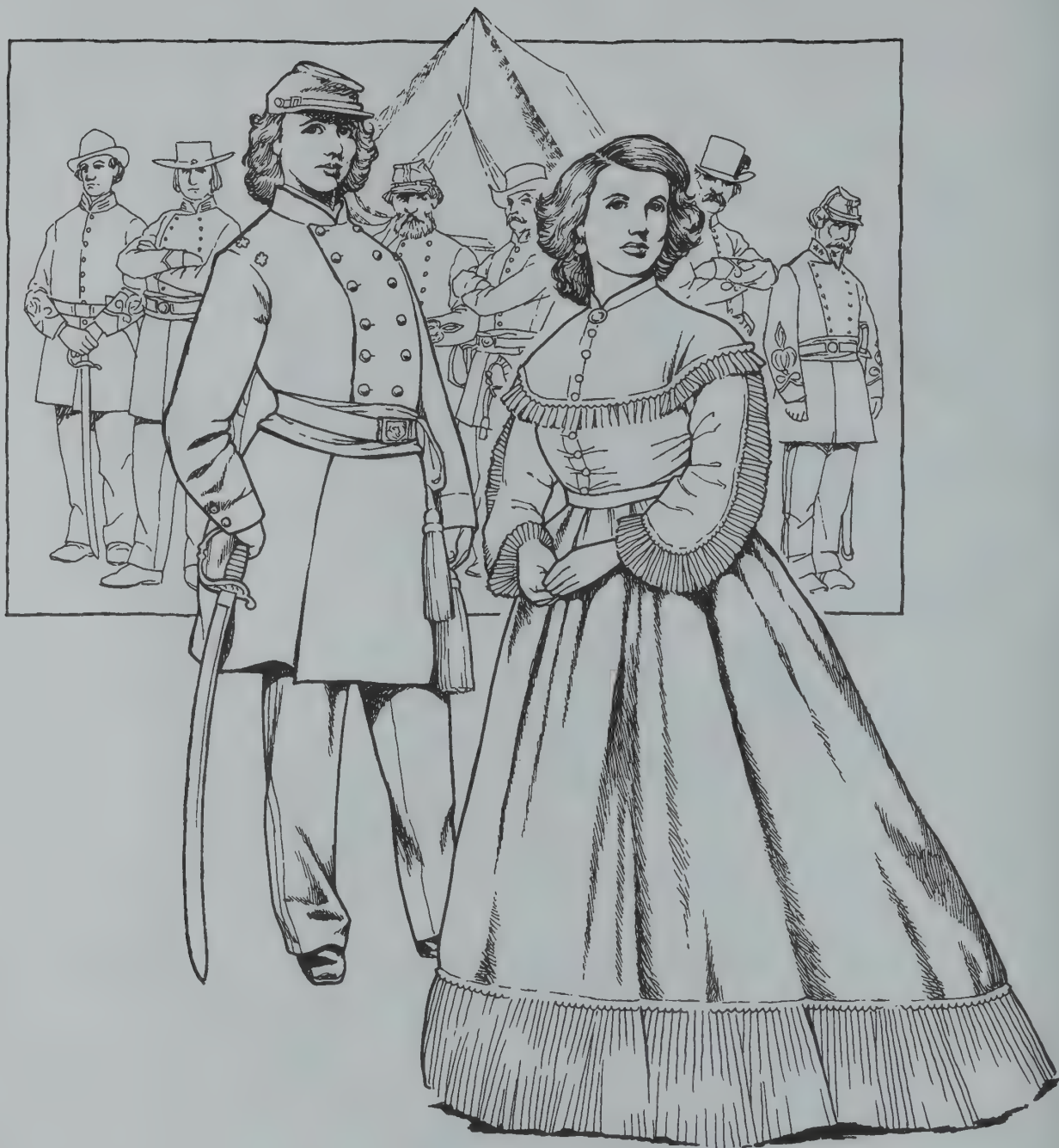


ANNIE ETHERIDGE, Vivandière

More like a modern-day combat medic than a traditional vivandière, Annie Etheridge (1838-?) was a true heroine of the Civil War. Originally a nurse from Wisconsin, she became almost legendary for her fierce spirit and dauntless courage, tendering her careful ministrations even while under enemy fire. She was a universal favorite with the soldiers, inspiring them to valor by her sterling example. In the second battle of Bull Run, a young combatant was blown to pieces by rebel artillery fire as she was binding up his wounds. A letter found on the body of another of the war's casualties serves as a testimonial to her compassionate, unwavering service:

Dearest friend: . . . You were the only one who was ever kind to me, since I entered the army. At Chancellorsville, I was shot through the body, the ball entering my side, and coming out through the shoulder. I was also hit in the arm, and was carried to the hospital in the woods, where I lay for hours, and not a surgeon would touch me . . . when you came along and gave me water, and bound up my wounds. . . . May God bless you, now and forever . . .

George H. Hill, Cleveland, Ohio.



PAULINE CUSHMAN, "Spy of the Cumberland"

Pauline Cushman (1833–93) was an actress who performed in Confederate army camps, and became the darling of the southern soldiers of Kentucky and Tennessee. At the same time, she was gathering information of value for the Union army, fulfilling her commission as a secret agent for the Federal government. Eventually, she was betrayed and imprisoned, and sentenced to be hanged by Confederate general, Braxton Bragg. But the advancing Union troops came to her rescue, and she was able to impart to them much useful recon-

naissance information. She was later awarded a major's commission in the United States Army by President Lincoln.

After a postwar career of mixed fortunes, she died in 1893 and was buried with full military honors by the Grand Army of the Republic, the nation's largest association of Civil War veterans. Pauline Cushman is depicted above in a Federal uniform, which she wore when she travelled widely as a lecturer; she is also seen dressed as an actress in the fashion of her times.



EMMA LA CONTE, South Carolina Belle and Diarist

Young Emma La Conte contributed to the historical record of the Civil War by maintaining a vivid and insightful diary from the time she was thirteen years old. At age seventeen, she witnessed the conquest of Columbia, South Carolina by the onslaught of Sherman's army marching north after

first ravaging Georgia. "I would endure any poverty," she wrote, "rather than live under Yankee rule." But the fortunes of war finally overwhelmed Emma La Conte and her way of life. Here we see young Emma with her sister and brother, witnessing the arrival of Sherman's army at Columbia.



SOPHRONIA BUCKLIN, Yankee Nurse

A native of Auburn, New York, Sophronia Bucklin was a nurse during the war years, stationed at the General Hospital at Point Lookout, Maryland in 1862, and later at the Wolf Street Hospital in Alexandria, Virginia. In July, 1863, she was one of the first nurses assigned to Camp Letterman General Hospital, a field hospital at Gettysburg near the thick of battle.

In a book that recounts her war experiences, *Hospital and Camp*, she described the resentment

evinced by male hospital personnel toward the women who volunteered to serve beside them, and how doctors often dismissed the advice and assistance offered by female nurses. She herself suffered "persistent objection to the presence of female personnel in the military hospital service" throughout the years that she served, despite the tender, invaluable and often selfless care rendered by women like her.



MARY ANNE BALL BICKERDYKE, "Cyclone in Calico"

Mary Anne Bickerdyke (1817–1901) was one of the most colorful and resourceful of the women who served in the hospitals of the Union armies during the Civil War. "Mother" Bickerdyke became famous among the troops for her ability to cut through the red tape normally required to obtain supplies, clean up dirty and disorderly hospitals, operate sanitary kitchens, and manage and reform the operation of the army laundries—all in all, tirelessly fighting for the welfare of the private soldier.

Mother Bickerdyke served as a nurse in field hospitals as near to the fighting as she could get, since she knew that's where her services were most urgently needed. "I was present at nineteen hard-fought battles in the departments of the Ohio, Tennessee, and Cumberland armies. I did the work of one," she related, "and I tried to do it well." The record clearly shows, however, she did a great deal more than the work of one.



MARY TODD LINCOLN, First Lady

Mary Todd Lincoln (1818–82), wife of President Abraham Lincoln, was born into a wealthy Kentucky family and received a quality education. She was an excitable, stubborn, and willful woman who adored her husband and four sons, and made a comfortable home for them. She aroused suspicion at the outset of the war because of her southern origins, and the fact that her sister's husband was a Confederate general. The South, in turn, scorned her as a traitor to her birth.

Despite her frequent extravagance—which further spurred the populace's resentment toward her

during her White House years—she was obsessed with a fear of poverty much of her life. She was devastated by the death of her son Willie in 1862, and the assassination of her husband three years later made her mental instability more pronounced. The death of her youngest son Tad in 1871 left her so emotionally shattered that she eventually had to be committed to a sanitarium for several months. Her last years were spent mainly in travelling; and later, in declining health, she lived out her remaining years with her sister in Springfield, Illinois.



SARAH EMMA EDMONDS, Soldier and Dispatch Rider

Sara Emma Edmonds (1841–98) enlisted under the name Franklin Thompson in the 2nd Michigan Infantry regiment, Company F in 1861. She served as an infantry soldier in the line, as hospital orderly, and dispatch rider for General Phil Kearny during McClellan's Peninsular campaign. On several occasions she operated alone as a spy behind Confederate lines—"disguised" as a woman. She

later joined a cavalry regiment in Kentucky, but left the service at Lebanon, Kentucky in April of 1863.

Resuming her female identity, Sarah served in the remainder of the war as a nurse in the hospitals of the army of the Cumberland. In 1865, she published a lurid fictional account of her adventures entitled *Nurse and Spy in the Union Army*, which became a bestseller.



SUSAN BRADFORD, Confederate Diarist

Descended from Governor William Bradford of the original Plymouth colony of Mayflower pilgrims, Susan Bradford (1846–1942) grew up in Florida, in a wealthy plantation-owning family. A fifteen-year-old in 1861, she witnessed the signing of the Ordinance of Secession in Tallahassee, the state capital.

During the war years, she assisted her mother in nursing wounded soldiers in the family home, and

kept a diary of her experiences during the conflict. She married a young Confederate soldier at war's end, and they spent a long and contented life together. In 1926, her war diary *Through Some Eventful Years* was published. She died in 1942 at age ninety-six.

Above we see the young Susan Bradford at a flag presentation ceremony honoring a southern militia company during the war years.



JANE MCKAY, Sergeant's Wife

Jane McKay, pictured here in the base camp of a Pennsylvania regiment, served as one of the four washerwomen allotted to each company during their stay in northern Virginia in the summer of 1861. She did her share of the troops' wash, tended her children (who had accompanied her on this mission), helped in the company mess preparing

and serving meals, and managed to achieve whatever measure of cleanliness and order could be had at the summer encampment of a newly-organized regiment. Soon the army would be in the field, and the company and care of women would be sorely missed by fledgling soldiers marching south to their first encounter with the enemy.



MARY BOYKIN CHESNUT, Confederate Diarist

Mary Boykin Chesnut (1823–86) came from a distinguished South Carolina family and married James Chesnut, a wealthy young lawyer. His burgeoning career eventually took him to Washington, D.C. as a United States senator, and during the war he became a brigadier general. Mary began her diary on December 6, 1861, and because of her husband's prominence, she had access to information at the highest levels of the Confederacy. The result was a remarkable documentary history of the war years.

A conscious effort to compile a record for posterity, the work consisted of 400,000 words, and

was dated variously from Charleston, South Carolina, Richmond, Virginia, and Montgomery, Alabama (the original Confederate capital). The diary was skillfully written and revealed a vivid and independent intelligence at work. While a staunch southern patriot, Mary Chesnut opposed slavery and provided unbiased commentary on Confederate politics and political figures. Portions of her writings were printed in 1905 as *A Diary from Dixie*.

Mary Chesnut is depicted above at a gala reception given by President Jefferson Davis at the Confederate capital in Richmond.



BELLE BOYD, Confederate Spy

Perhaps the most famous and dashing of the female spies for the Confederacy, Belle Boyd (1844–1900) was the daughter of a well-known family in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. At the tender age of seventeen, she became a Confederate courier, delivering messages and medicine through the Union lines. She sent General Stonewall Jackson valuable information about the concentration of Union forces facing him that led to his surprise attack at Front Royal, Virginia. In a message sent to her, Jackson allegedly said, “I thank you for myself and for the army for the immense service that you have rendered your country.”

Belle was betrayed and arrested in July 1862, but later exchanged. In 1864, while aboard a Confederate blockage runner, she was captured by a Federal war ship, and after a series of romantic adventures, made her way to England where she began a theatrical career. In 1865, she wrote a book of her adventures, *Belle Boyd in Camp and Prison*. She later toured the United States giving dramatic recitals about her life as a rebel spy.

Here the young adventuress is pictured bringing information to Confederate scouts in the Shenandoah Valley.

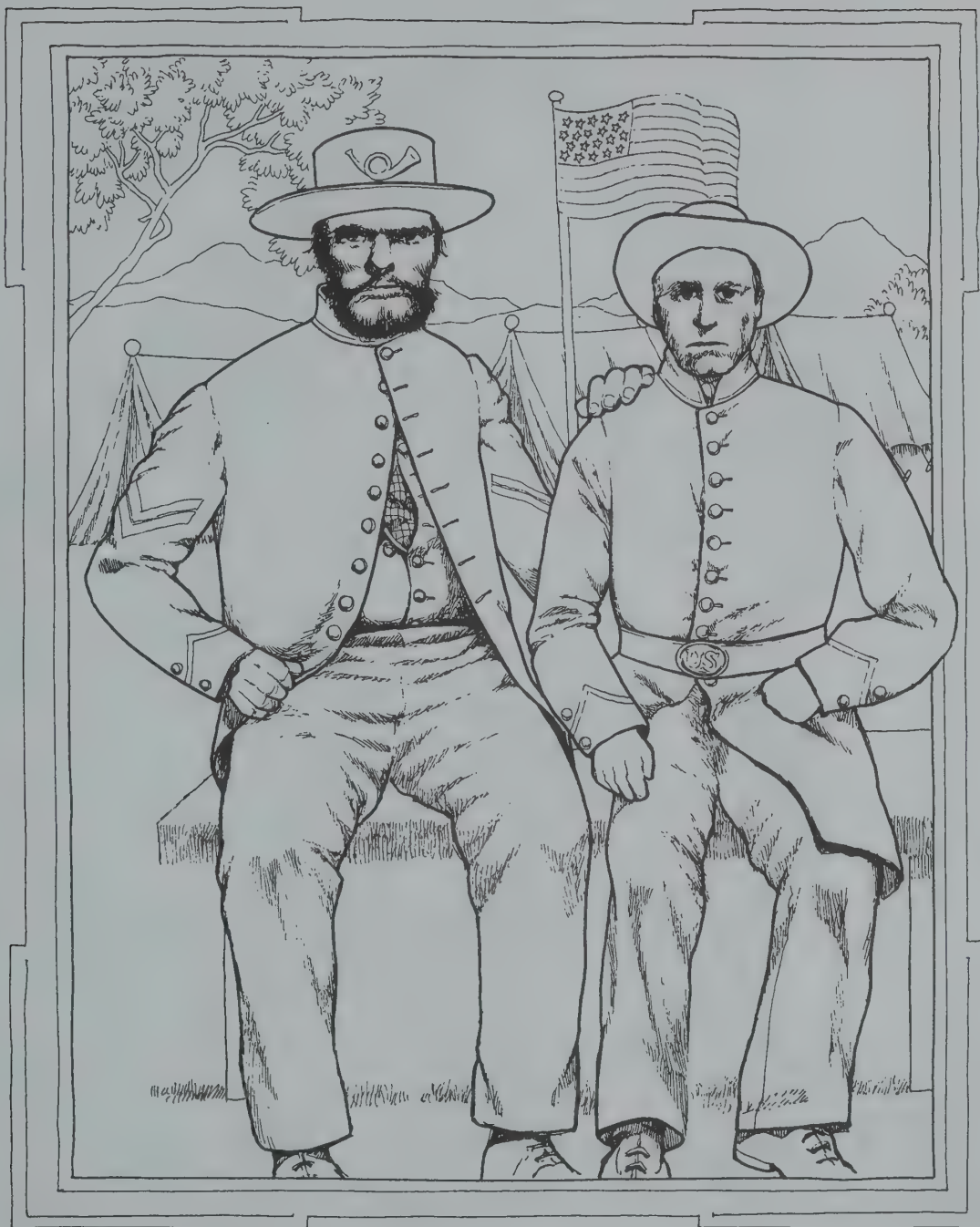


ROSE O'NEAL GREENHOW, Confederate Spy

Rose Greenhow (1817–64), a passionate secessionist, is best remembered for having delivered information about the advance of Federal forces upon Manassas Junction, Virginia to General Pierre G.T. Beauregard, which assisted in the Confederate victory at the first battle of Bull Run. She was arrested as a “dangerous and skillful spy,” and held at Old Capitol Prison in Washington, D.C., where she was photographed with one of her four daughters—the basis for the above drawing—and where she continued, despite her confinement, to smuggle messages to the Confederacy. She was later exiled south.

In 1863, she sailed aboard a blockade-runner to Europe where she placed her youngest daughter in

a convent school, and devoted herself to being a propagandist for the Confederate cause. Later that year, she published her prison memoirs, *My Imprisonment and the First Year of Abolition Rule at Washington*, in London. In 1864, she sailed from Europe aboard another blockade-runner—this time bound for Dixie—that was pursued by a Yankee gunboat just off the coast of North Carolina. Rose took flight in a small rowboat that capsized, and she drowned from the weight of the gold sovereigns—the royalties from her book—that she carried on her person. She was buried at Wilmington, North Carolina with full Confederate military honors.



JENNIE HODGERS (alias Albert Cashier), Soldier

Jennie Rodgers served three years as Albert Cashier, an infantryman, with the Federal army of Tennessee in the 95th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, taking part in forty hard-fought battles and skirmishes. She was never wounded, and was discharged with her regiment on April 12, 1865.

After the war, Jennie continued in her guise as a man—as a farmer and as a lamplighter in Saunemin, Illinois. In 1911, when she suffered a broken hip in an auto accident, her secret—which she had concealed for more than fifty years—was discovered.

During the course of a Pension Bureau investigation, one former unit member reported his failure to identify “Albert” as a woman, but mentioned that the unit frequently remarked on the fact that “he” had no beard; he was described as “the shortest man in the company” and “a brave little soldier” nonetheless.

Above we see Jennie Rodgers as Albert Cashier in 1864, as she posed with a fellow soldier for a photograph.

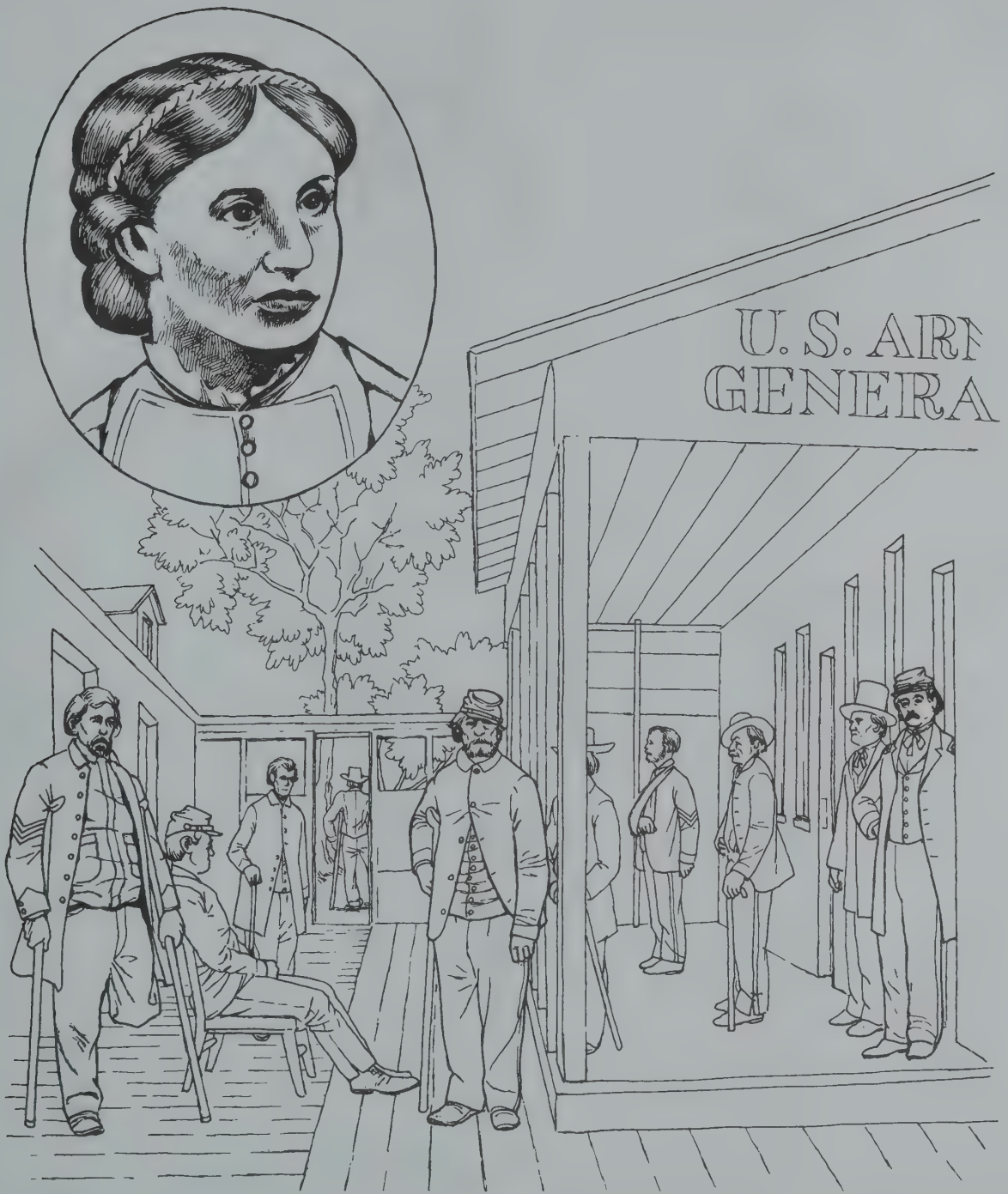


HETTY CARY, Belle of the Confederacy

Considered by some to be the most beautiful woman of the Confederacy, Hetty Cary came to Richmond from her native Baltimore in the early days of the war, and soon became the toast of the town. One Confederate general said of her, "if there was no such word as 'fascinating,' you would have to invent it to describe Hetty Cary."

In January, 1865, she was married to thirty-three year old Brigadier General John Pegram at one of

the most splendid weddings in wartime Richmond's history, attended by a grand crowd of high ranking officers and ladies. Barely three weeks later, many of the same friends assembled to bury the handsome young general who was killed at Hatcher's Run, near Petersburg, Virginia. Before the year was out, the Confederacy would become only a memory.



LOUISA MAY ALCOTT, Nurse and Writer

Louisa May Alcott (1832–88), well-known author of such popular nineteenth-century books for young ladies as *Little Women*, *An Old-Fashioned Girl*, and *Under the Lilacs*, published her first successful book during the Civil War. It was called *Hospital Sketches*, and was based on her experiences as a volunteer nurse in Washington, D.C. at Georgetown's Union Hospital during the winter of

1862–3. Characterizing the facility as a “pestilence box,” the book described the unsanitary and generally poor conditions she encountered there, as well as portraying the indifference evinced by its doctors and nurses. Louisa May Alcott left the nurses corps in 1862, exhausted and in ill-health, and devoted the remainder of her life to writing.



VARINA HOWELL DAVIS, First Lady of the Confederacy

Varina Howell Davis (1826–1906), second wife of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, was an intelligent, deeply religious and well-educated woman, as well as an accomplished hostess with a serious interest in politics. All through the frantic war years, through family trials and the burden of her husband's public unpopularity, Varina Davis gave her husband uncompromising loyalty, steady companionship, and was a significant source of strength to him.

Varina Davis was with her husband when he was arrested in Georgia after fleeing Richmond in the last days of the war. She lobbied tirelessly for the ex-Confederate president's release from his imprisonment. After his death in 1889, Varina moved to New York City where she supported herself by writing articles for the New York *Sunday World*, at the invitation of the owner—Joseph Pulitzer—who had married a Davis relative. She died in 1905, survived by only one of her five children.

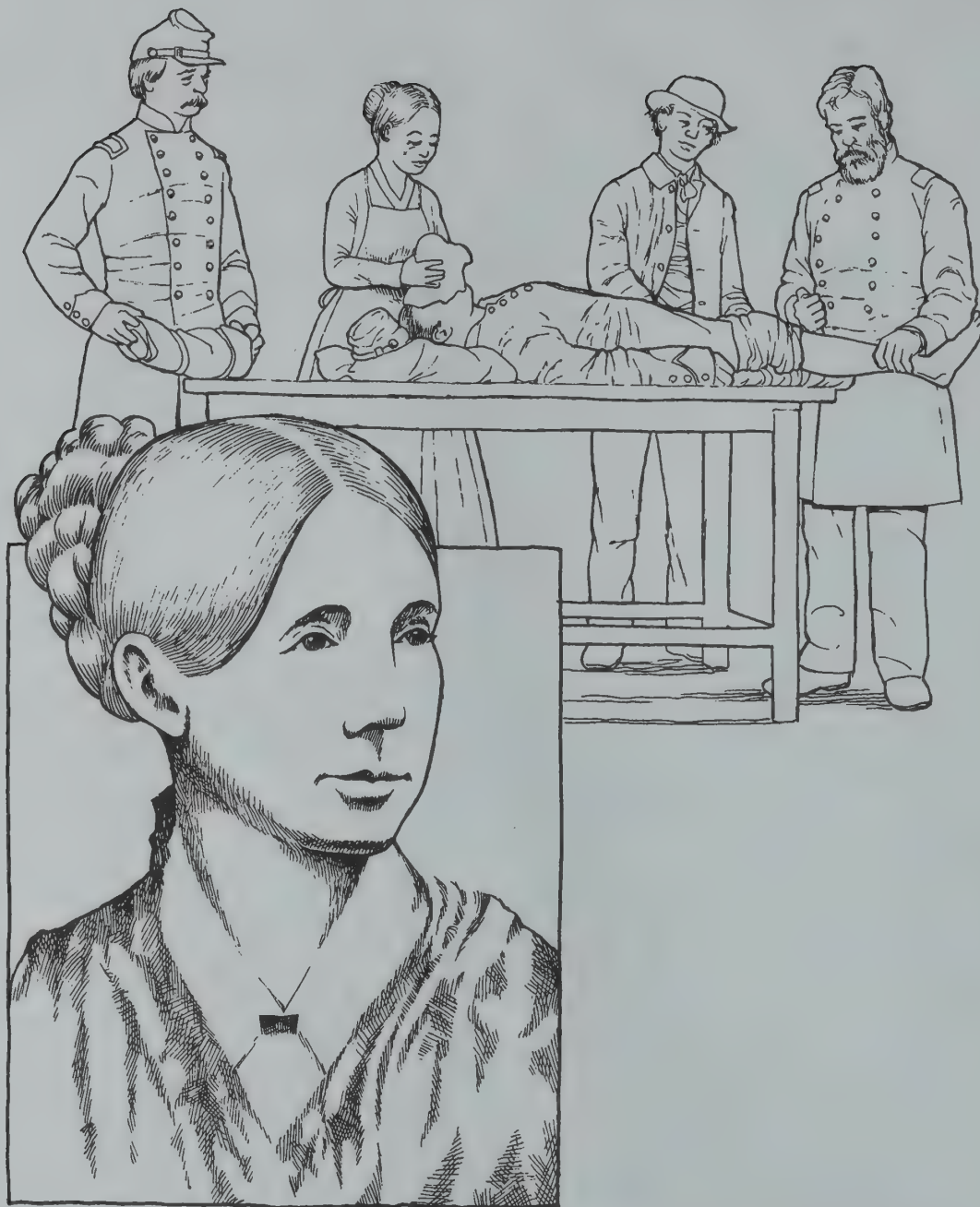


KADY BROWNELL, Soldier and Flag Bearer

Only nineteen when the Civil War began, Kady Brownell—a soldier's daughter—followed her husband into battle when he joined a Rhode Island regiment. Proficient with both sword and rifle, she fought side by side with her husband at the first battle of Bull Run, near Manassas, Virginia. She stayed on the field to attend to the wounded, and when the standard bearer of the regiment was hit and dropped the flag, Kady picked it up and carried it across the field into combat.

When Robert Brownell re-enlisted in another

Rhode Island regiment, she accompanied him in Colonel Ambrose Burnside's victorious campaign in Newbern, North Carolina, carrying the regiment's colors during the perilous attack against the rebel breastworks. She nursed her husband when he was wounded, and returned with him to Rhode Island when he was discharged as unfit for further service. She was typical of those working-class women who went to war, wrote no memoirs of their service, and about whom we regrettably know so little today.



DOROTHEA DIX, “Superintendent of Nurses” and Social Reformer

Prominent in pre-war years as an implacable advocate for the mentally ill, and in 1861 the first in the field to nurse wounded soldiers, Dorothea Dix (1802–87) was appointed “Superintendent of Women Nurses, to select and assign women nurses to general or permanent military hospitals” for the Union cause. In this position, she organized an army of nurses who served at the front and in hospitals caring for the sick and wounded.

She was a strict administrator, constantly at odds with both the army doctors and with her own subordinates, rejecting thousands of nursing applicants for being “too attractive, too young, or over-

anxious.” It was not an easy position for an independent and strong-willed woman who had to deal often with male doctors and administrators who resented her authority—an authority that lacked the power to enforce obedience. While her wartime participation marked an important episode in her career, it is by no means the measure of her remarkable life’s achievement.

In the background of the above picture, we see an operation being performed with a nurse administering chloroform, a rare procedure since whiskey was usually the only anesthetic available.



KATE CHASE SPRAGUE, Political Hostess

The intelligent, charming and politically astute Kate Chase Sprague (1840–99) was daughter of the United States Secretary of the Treasury, Salmon P. Chase. She assumed the role of her widowed father's hostess in Washington, D.C. at age sixteen. Her social engagements and extravaganzas were widely reported in northern newspapers—she was the superstar of her day. Her marriage to millionaire William Sprague in 1863 was the most splendid social affair of the war years in Washington.

After 1866, however, scandal, her husband's financial difficulties, and their subsequent divorce reduced her fortunes in the postwar years. She was eventually reduced to selling chickens, eggs and milk door to door in the city where she had once reigned as the queen of society. Here we see her at the height of her glory, at a grand occasion in the nation's capital.



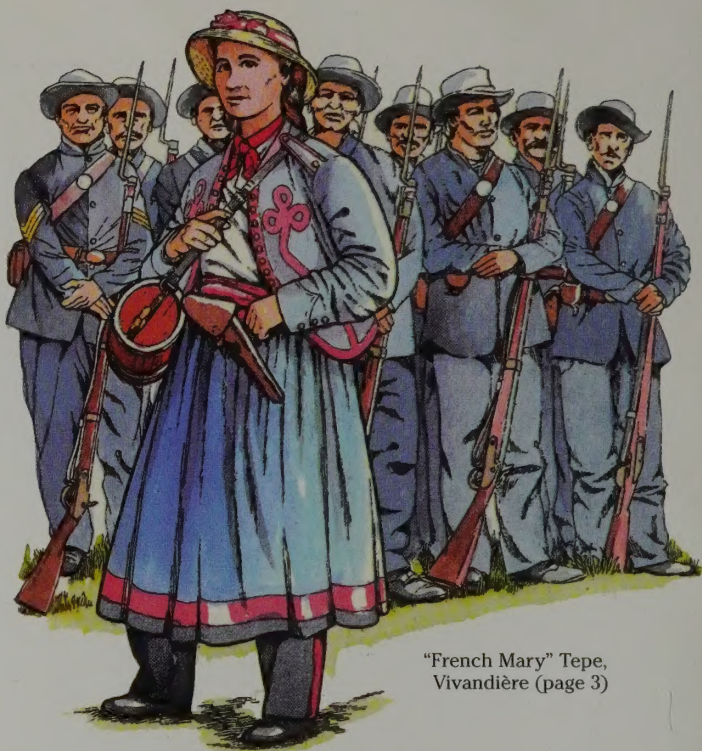
FRANCES CLALIN, a Soldier

The Civil War is often described as the war that pitted “brother against brother.” But it is just as appropriate to call it the war that set “brother against sister” when the case of Frances Clalin is considered along with a number of other women who, like her, served as soldiers in the ranks, successfully concealing their gender from their comrades-in-arms. Frances Clalin, about whom little is

known, is reported to have served in the Union army as a gunner with the 4th Missouri heavy artillery unit, and as a horse soldier with Company A of the 13th Missouri cavalry, leaving us with photographs of herself both in uniform and in more traditionally female attire, on which the above drawing is based.

FAMOUS WOMEN OF THE CIVIL WAR

Peter F. Copeland



"French Mary" Tepe,
Vivandière (page 3)

Concealing her gender from her comrades in arms, Frances Clalin served in the Union army as a "horse soldier" in the Missouri cavalry. Clara Barton delivered medical supplies to the battlefields and was later instrumental in founding the American Red Cross. Kady Brownell, a soldier's daughter, followed her husband to war in 1861 and became a *vivandière* (caregiver) and color bearer for the First Rhode Island regiment.

Thirty carefully rendered illustrations depict these and 27 other remarkable women from the North and South in settings that range from the battlefield to the White House. Informative captions highlight the roles and accomplishments of:

Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
Mary Edwards Walker, surgeon and Union spy
Mary Todd Lincoln, wife of the President
Jennie Hodgers, alias Albert Cashier, Union soldier
Mary Boykin Chesnut, Confederate diarist
Belle Boyd, Confederate spy
Dorothea Dix, Union Superintendent of Nurses
Pauline Cushman, actress and Union spy
Louisa May Alcott, nurse and author of *Little Women*
Varina Howell Davis, wife of the Confederate President

... and 20 others.

Entertaining and educational, this informative book, with its ready-to-color pictures, is an ideal learning aid for home or classroom use.

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front cover : Pauline Cushman, "Spy of the Cumberland" (page 12)

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